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sive through the failure of the unpaired gene in the heterozygotes to produce a visible effect.

A number of excellent text figures and six plates, five of them colored, add greatly to the attractiveness of the book, and the press work leaves nothing to be desired.

This little manual is worthy of an even larger measure of the appreciation which has been given to its two preceding editions by those engaged in other scientific fields, and by general readers who are not themselves engaged in science, but who like to keep themselves informed on the advances that are being made in science.—Geo. H. Shull.

## MINOR NOTICES

Alpine plant life.—In an attractive volume intended for the general reader, ARBER4 has described the plant life of the higher altitudes of the Swiss Alps. The plants are treated in ecological groups, and an evident effort has been made, not unsuccessfully, to maintain the ecological point of view throughout. It might be questioned if most modern ecologists would find as many beautiful adaptations as are evident to the author, who declares that not only the color of the flowers, but the density of their pigment "may be primarily due to a specialization in favor of a particular class of insect visitor." Other adaptations of alpine plants receive considerable attention, and the probable origin of the alpine flora is briefly discussed.

The text is pleasing in style, the descriptions are accurate and profusely illustrated by more than 75 excellent plates and figures. A glossary of botanical terms and a chapter on the structure of the flower should make all the descriptions intelligible even to the reader who is entirely without scientific training.—Geo. D. Fuller.

## NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Cecidology.—The anatomy and histology of insect galls continues to be an interesting and profitable field not only for the entomologist, but also for the plant pathologist and the experimental biologist. Weideld gives us a valuable study of the life history of the gall of Neuroterus vesicator Schlecht. He first calls attention to the failure thus far to explain experimentally the reason for gall formation, and the necessity of comparing the structure of the gall with the normal structure of the plant. After briefly reviewing the history of the study of the gall structures, especially the studies of Beyerick, who attributed the gall characters which are recognized by the zoologist to a "growth enzyme," he discusses his methods. These methods are well worthy

<sup>+</sup>Arber, E. A. Newell, Plant life in alpine Switzerland. 8vo. pp. xxiv+355. pls. 47. figs. 3o. London: John Murray. 1910. \$1.50.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Weidel, F., Beiträge zur Entwicklungsgeschichte und vergleichenden Anatomie der Cynpidengallen der Eiche. Flora 102: 279–334. pl. 15. figs. 49. 1911.